



PRESS RELEASE

Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Burr Ridge

On Wednesday July 30, 2008, the Village of Burr Ridge received confirmation from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), of the presence of Emerald Ash Borer in Burr Ridge.

On Friday July 25, 2008 while doing a routine visual inspection of parkway trees, Village Arborist Gary Gatlin noticed a group of ash trees that were exhibiting signs of an Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The USDA was immediately notified and specimens of the adult EAB beetles were sent in for positive identification. The adult beetle specimens were collected from parkway trees on the 6400 Block of St. James Court in the Heatherfields subdivision. The Heatherfields subdivision is located on the northeast side of Burr Ridge, near Plainfield and I-294.

The State of Illinois has the authority to require removal of all EAB infested trees but has never done so. At this time, State officials are allowing local municipalities to determine how to best respond to local infestations. There are currently no mandated policies on the removal of EAB infested trees. Burr Ridge will remove the infested ash parkway trees as soon as we can determine the extent of the beetle's presence. Village officials and staff are currently preparing a formal plan that will address the needs of the community in the wake of this very destructive pest.

Emerald Ash Borer is a small, metallic green beetle that is native to China. EAB is believed to have first arrived in suburban Detroit in wooden shipping material. The presence of EAB was discovered in Detroit in 2002. EAB has since killed millions of Ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

In the beginning stages, EAB can be difficult to detect. Since the beetles first laying eggs in the crown of the ash, infestation is often not noticed until it moves downward to the trunk, which can take several years. The most noticeable signs of EAB include dead or dying branches within the top of the tree crown, followed by sprouts growing from the trunk. If you suspect your ash is infested, contact the Village of Burr Ridge Forestry and Grounds Division at (630) 323-4733 x 455.

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer visit: www.illinoiseab.com,
www.agr.state.il.us/eab, or www.emeraldashborer.info.